

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-19, 21-25 and 27 remain pending in the application, claims 7, 20 and 26 being canceled herein.

Allowable claims 7-9, 20, 21, 26 and 27

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 7-9, 20, 21, 26 and 27 are allowable.

Claims 1-6, 10-19 and 22-25 over Yamamoto in view of Kato

In the Office Action, claims 1-6, 10-19 and 22-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Yamamoto et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,572,575 ("Yamamoto") in view of Kato et al., U.S. Patent No. 3,952,166 ("Kato"). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 1-6 and 10-14 are amended herein to include the subject matter of allowable claim 7, with claim 7 being subsequently canceled herein. It is believed that the Examiner would agree that claims 1-6 and 10-14 are now allowable for all the reasons that claim 7 was allowable.

Claims 15-19 are amended herein to include the subject matter of allowable claim 20, with claim 20 being subsequently canceled herein. It is believed that the Examiner would agree that claims 15-19 are now allowable for all the reasons that claim 20 was allowable.

Claims 22-25 are amended herein to include the subject matter of allowable claim 26, with claim 26 being subsequently canceled herein. It is believed that the Examiner would agree that claims 22-25 are now allowable for all the reasons that claim 26 was allowable.

Accordingly, for at least all the above reasons, claims 1-6, 10-19 and 22-25 are patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Objection to Allowable Claims 7-9, 20, 21, 26 and 27

Claims 7-9, 20, 21, 26 and 27 were objected to as each being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Claims 7, 20 and 26 are canceled herein, each being amended into its base independent claim 1, 15 and 22, respectively.

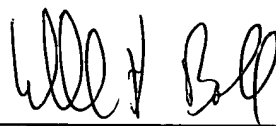
Claims 8, 9, 21 and 27 are amended herein to be in independent form.

It is respectfully requested that the objection now be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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